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# Economic Development Speech

Max S. Baucus

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Senator \* or Department\*: **BAUCUS**

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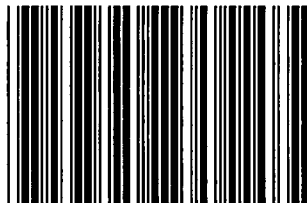
(1) Subject\*: **Economic Affairs**

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(2) Subject\* **Economic Development Speech Protecting vs Exploiting Environment**

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**BAUCUS**

*from Alex Hansen*  
*July 1978*

A TYPICAL MONTANAN WORKS IN A MINE A PLANT OR A LUMBER CAMP AND SPENDS HIS FREE TIME HUNTING THE MOUNTAINS AND FISHING THE RIVERS OF THIS STATE. THESE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE CONFLICT BETWEEN ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS FROM THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF WORKING AND LIVING IN MONTANA..

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PEOPLE OF MONTANA. IN RECENT YEARS, JOBS HAVE BEEN LOST IN THE STATE'S BASIC INDUSTRIES AND THE GROWTH IN OTHER SECTORS HAS NOT COMPENSATED. YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE HOME BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES. AND PER CAPITA INCOME AND OTHER STATISTICS PROVE THAT MONTANANS ARE BEING PENALIZED BY A STATIC ECONOMY.

IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT THAT MAKES MONTANA A SPECIAL PLACE TO LIVE. TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT PRESSURE IS BEING EXERTED ON THE STATE'S NATURAL RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY COAL AND WATER. MONTANANS ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE DESTRUCTIVE PATTERNS OF PAST DEVELOPMENT. AND THERE IS A PUBLIC CONSENSUS THAT THIS SAD HISTORY WILL NOT BE REPEATED.

THE NEED TO EXPAND THE ECONOMY AND AT THE SAME TIME PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVE RESOURCES IS ONE OF THE GREAT PARADOXES OF THIS AGE. THIS FOUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENT IS ESPECIALLY DIVISIVE IN MONTANA --- A STATE WITH SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND REMARKABLE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.

THE PEOPLE I HAVE TALKED TO IN THE CITIES AND SMALL TOWNS ALL ACROSS THE STATE ARE ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO THE TYPE OF MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL DESTROY THE MEANING OF MONTANA. THEY DO NOT WANT THIS STATE TO BECOME A CROWDED AND POLLUTED IMITATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL PROMISED LAND.

THESE PEOPLE ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT GOVERNMENT LAWS, REGULATIONS AND STUDIES ARE LOCKING UP RESOURCES, ELIMINATING JOBS AND NULLIFYING THEIR RIGHT TO EARN A DECENT LIVING.

IN RECENT YEARS, COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS HAS BECOME AN ACCEPTED COST OF DOING BUSINESS IN THIS COUNTRY AND STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE ASSUMED COMPREHENSIVE POWERS TO PROTECT RESOURCES AND PUBLIC HEALTH. THE APPLICATION OF THIS AUTHORITY, HOWEVER, MUST BE PRACTICAL, FAIR AND NECESSARY --- TO ASSURE THAT INDUSTRIES, SMALL BUSINESSES AND WORKERS ARE NOT REGULATED INTO OBLIVION.

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION HAS BEEN A CRITICAL ISSUE IN MONTANA FOR THE PAST DECADE. I BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL TO RECONCILE THESE DIFFERENCES AND ESTABLISH AN EQUILIBRIUM THAT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR MONTANANS TO WORK IN A STABLE ECONOMY AND LIVE IN A QUALITY ENVIRONMENT.

MOST OF THE DISCUSSION IN THE ARGUMENT BETWEEN ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS HAS COME FROM CORPORATE BOARD ROOMS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS. I BELIEVE THE TIME HAS COME TO LISTEN TO AND UNDERSTAND THE PEOPLE IN THE MINES AND PLANTS AND LUMBER CAMPS --- THOSE MONTANANS WHO WANT TO BUILD AND PROTECT THEIR STATE.